

Senate Bill 294: An Overview

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Presentation Overview

- Passing of Senate Bill 294 relating to medications for respiratory distress
 - New advisory committee duties
 - Policy Requirements for schools
 - Reporting for schools
 - Rule implementation
- SEAC recommendations

Senate Bill 294

- Passed during the Texas Legislature 88th Regular Session.
 - Relating to the use of epinephrine auto-injectors and medication designated for treatment of respiratory distress on public and private school campuses.
- The bill:
 - amends [Texas Education Code, Chapter 38, Subchapter E](#), by replacing references to “asthma medication” with “medication for respiratory distress”;
 - renames Subchapter E as “Maintenance and Administration of Epinephrine Auto-Injectors and Medication for Respiratory Distress”; and
 - expands the scope of SEAC to include the administration of medication for respiratory distress on public and private school campuses.

New Advisory Committee Duties

SEAC shall advise the DSHS Commissioner on:

- The storage and maintenance of epinephrine auto-injectors and medication for respiratory distress on school campuses and campuses of institutions of higher education;
- The training of school personnel and school volunteers, and of personnel and volunteers at institutions of higher education, in the administration of a medication for respiratory distress; and
- A plan for:
 - One or more school personnel members or school volunteers trained in the administration of medication for respiratory distress to be on each school campus;
 - One or more personnel member or volunteer of an institution of higher education trained in the administration of medication for respiratory distress to be on each campus of an institution of higher education.



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Policy Requirement for Schools

- A school district, open-enrollment charter school, and private school **may** adopt and implement a policy regarding the maintenance, administration, and disposal of medication for respiratory distress.
- If a policy is adopted, it must comply with standards in the bill.



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Required Reporting

- The bill also requires schools to report the use of medication for respiratory distress to:
 - the school district or charter holder,
 - the prescribing physician, and
 - the commissioner of DSHS.
- The report must be done within 10 business days after the medication is administered.



Rule Implementation

- SB 294 requires the executive commissioner of HHSC to adopt rules regarding the administration and disposal of medication for respiratory distress:
 - in consultation with the commissioner of Education; and
 - with the advice from SEAC.



SEAC Recommendations and Name Change

- DSHS proposes changing the name from Stock Epinephrine Advisory Committee (SEAC) to Stock Medication Advisory Committee (SMAC)
- Steps to gather Committee input to amend [Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, Part 1, Chapter 37, Subchapter D](#)
 - The entire committee will need to vote on the rules which will require an additional meeting as the statute Sec. 38.207 requires that SEAC advise on rules.
 - Presiding officer can call for the establishment of a subcommittee
 - An additional SEAC meeting will be needed to provide recommendations on the proposed rules
- Preferred effective date for the rules is June 1, 2024



Thank you!

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